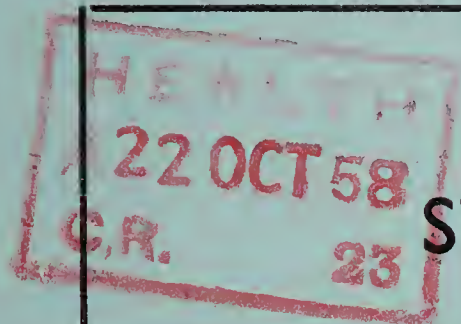


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ST. IVES (HUNTS)

RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL



ANNUAL REPORT

OF

MEDICAL OFFICER

OF HEALTH

AND

PUBLIC HEALTH INSPECTOR

FOR 1957

LIST OF PARISHES IN THE COUNCIL'S AREA

Bluntisham	Holywell-cum-Needingworth
Broughton	Houghton and Wyton
Bury	Oldhurst
Colne	Pidley-cum-Fenton
Earith	Somersham
Fenstanton	Warboys
Hemingford Abbots	Wistow
Hemingford Grey	Woodhurst
Hilton	

Saint Ives Rural District Council

Chairman of the Council:

Revd. Nelson Trafford.

Vice-Chairman of the Council:

G. Kiddle, Esq.

PUBLIC HEALTH COMMITTEE

Chairman:

R. W. Giddins, Esq.

Vice-Chairman:

Revd. N. E. Marshall.

Members:

E. H. Alderson, Esq.	S. E. Ireland, Esq.
Mrs. M. Banks	A. E. Ivatt, Esq.
J. Burgess, Esq.	R. Johnson, Esq.
H. W. Bush, Esq.	Mrs. W. M. Price
T. S. Christmas, Esq.	R. G. Saint, Esq.
M. P. Denny, Esq.	J. A. Searle, Esq.
J. W. Harris, Esq.	R. L. Stocks, Esq.
C. D. Hutchcraft, Esq.	Miss V. M. G. Thackray
D. B. Wright, Esq.	

Public Health Staff

Medical Officer of Health:

J. Caldwell, L.R.C.P., L.R.C.S., L.R.F.P. & S., D.P.H.

Senior Public Health Inspector:

G. H. Phipps, C.S.I.B., M.A.P.H.I.

Additional Public Health Inspectors:

J. G. Reeson, C.S.I.B., M.R.S.H., A.M.I.P.H.E.,
M.A.P.H.I., Cert. Bldg. Insp.

G. M. Clifford, C.S.I.B., M.A.P.H.I., Cert.I.Hsg.

Administrative Assistant:

F. W. Palmer.

ANNUAL REPORT
of the
MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH FOR
THE RURAL DISTRICT OF
SAINT IVES IN THE COUNTY OF HUNTINGDON
FOR THE YEAR ENDING
31st DECEMBER, 1957.

To:— The Chairman and Members of the
St. Ives Rural District Council.

Mr. Chairman, Ladies and Gentlemen,

I have the honour to present my report on the Health and Sanitary conditions of the district for the year 1957.

The district continues to develop and the general health of the people remains very good.

The mid-year population, as estimated by the Registrar General, shows that the figure is now well over the 15000 level and indicates an increase of 680 as compared with the previous year.

The Birth Rate has risen slightly but still remains a little below the figure for England and Wales as a whole, while the Death Rate shows a fractional decrease compared with last year and continues to remain well below the national average.

Notifiable Infectious Disease struck a more prevalent note this year, there being about three times as many notifications as in 1956. Nine-tenths of the notifications however were cases of measles which occurred in an outbreak over the whole district during the Spring and Summer seasons.

Vaccination against Poliomyelitis continued successfully during the whole of 1957 as far as the limited supplies permitted—all vaccination being achieved with British manufactured vaccine.

As reported in previous years Slum Clearance programme comprised 326 houses to be dealt with in five years. By the end of 1957, 182 houses had been reported upon, 30 of which were in a clearance area which was confirmed by the Minister on 25th March, 1957, after a local enquiry on 22nd January, 1957.

The main drainage scheme for Somersham was completed during the year and other schemes are now under consideration.

The demands for water have increased owing to the development of the district and general increased needs. No serious supply difficulties have been experienced during the year—the supply by the Ramsey and St. Ives Joint Water Board having been augmented by a bulk supply from the Cambridge Waterworks Company.

In conclusion, I should like to thank members of the Council for their kindness to me during the year, and all Officers of the Council for their continued help; and co-operation.

I am, Your obedient Servant,

J. CALDWELL,
Medical Officer of Health

STATISTICS AND SOCIAL CONDITIONS OF THE AREA

General Statistics

Population (middle 1957)	...	...	15,670
Population (middle 1956)	...	...	14,990
Area	...	...	45,911 acres
Rateable value	...	...	£131,818
Sum represented by a penny rate	£608	7	8
Number of inhabited houses	...	...	4,322

VITAL STATISTICS

LIVE BIRTHS	M.	F.	Total	
Legitimate	126	113	239	Birth-rate per 1,000
Illegitimate	3	5	8	etimated population 15.8
	—	—	—	(Ditto for England
Total	129	118	247	and Wales) 16.1

STILL BIRTHS				
Legitimate	2	3	5	Birth-rate per 1,000
Illegitimate	-	-	-	(live and still) Births 19.8
	—	—	—	(Ditto for England
Total	2	3	5	and Wales) 22.4

DEATHS				
(all ages)	68	54	122	Death-rate per 1,000
				estimated population 7.8
				(Ditto for England
				and Wales) 11.5

Deaths of Infants under 1 year	M.	F.	Total
Legitimate	...	...	...
Illegitimate	...	...	...
	—	—	—
Total	1	2	3
	—	—	—

Death-rates of Infants under 1 year	
All infants per 1,000 live births	12.1
(Ditto for England and Wales)	23.0
Legitimate infants per 1,000 legitimate live births	12.6
Illegitimate infants per 1,000 illegitimate live births	—

CAUSES OF DEATH

(Registrar General's List)

List No.	Causes					M.	F.
1	Tuberculosis, respiratory	...	...	...	...	0	0
2	Tuberculosis, other	...	...	...	...	0	0
3	Syphilitic disease	...	...	...	...	0	0
4	Diphtheria	...	...	...	...	0	0
5	Whooping Cough	...	...	...	...	0	0
6	Meningococcal infections	...	...	...	...	0	0
7	Acute Poliomyelitis	...	...	...	...	0	0
8	Measles	...	...	...	...	0	0
9	Other infective and parasitic diseases	...	...	...	...	0	0
10	Malignant neoplasm, stomach	...	...	...	...	2	3
11	Malignant neoplasm, lung, bronchus	...	...	...	...	6	1
12	Malignant neoplasm, breast	...	...	...	...	1	4
13	Malignant neoplasm, uterus	...	...	...	...	0	0
14	Other malignant and lymphatic neoplasms	...	...	...	...	7	5
15	Leukaemia, aleukaemia	...	...	...	...	1	0
16	Diabetes	...	...	...	...	0	0
17	Vascular lesions of the nervous system	...	...	...	...	4	8
18	Coronary disease, angina	...	...	...	...	17	8
19	Hypertension with heart disease	...	...	...	...	0	1
20	Other heart disease	...	...	...	...	10	11
21	Other circulatory disease	...	...	...	...	2	2
22	Influenza	...	...	...	...	1	0
23	Pneumonia	...	...	...	...	3	1
24	Bronchitis	...	...	...	...	2	1
25	Other diseases of respiratory system	...	...	...	...	0	0
26	Ulcer of stomach and duodenum	...	...	...	...	1	0
27	Gastritis, enteritis, diarrhoea	...	...	...	...	0	1
28	Nephritis and nephrosis	...	...	...	...	2	0
29	Hyperplasia of prostate	...	...	...	...	1	0
30	Pregnancy, childbirth, abortion	...	...	...	...	0	0
31	Congenital malformations	...	...	...	...	1	2
32	Other defined and ill-defined diseases	...	...	...	...	2	3
33	Motor vehicle accidents	...	...	...	...	2	0
34	All other accidents	...	...	...	...	2	2
35	Suicide	...	...	...	...	1	1
36	Homicide and operations of war	...	...	...	...	0	0
Total all causes						68	54

GENERAL PROVISIONS OF HEALTH SERVICES FOR THE AREA

(a) Laboratory Facilities

The following laboratory facilities have been available to the authority and to General Practitioners in the area.—

Public Health Laboratory Service, Tennis Court Road, Cambridge. Tel.: Cambridge 55526.

Public Analyst, S. Greenburgh, Ph.D., B.Sc., F.I.C., Tenison Road, Cambridge. Tel.: Cambridge 2097.

(b) Ambulance Services

Ambulances administered by the County Ambulance Service operating in conjunction with the County Fire Service have been available on doctor's orders. Tel.: Huntingdon 348.

(c) Home Nursing

Nurse-midwives employed and supervised by the Huntingdon County Council carried out Home Nursing and attended maternity cases,

- (i) A nurse residing in Warboys (Tel.: Warboys 224) attended cases in Warboys, Wistow and Broughton.
- (ii) A nurse residing in Bluntisham (Tel.: Earith 225) attended cases in Somersham and Pidley.
- (iii) A Nurse residing in Hemingford Grey (Tel.: St. Ives 2128) attended cases in the Hemingfords, Fenstanton and Hilton.
- (iv) A Nurse residing in Bluntisham (Tel.: Earith 226) attended cases in Earith, Bluntisham, Colne and Holywell-cum-Needingworth, resigned 15 . 11 . 57
- (v) A Nurse residing in Woodhurst (Tel.: Warboys 327) attended cases in Wyton Aerodrome, Woodhurst, Oldhurst and Upwood.
- (vi) A Nurse residing in St. Ives (Tel.: St. Ives 2228) attended cases in Houghton and Wyton villages.

(d) Clinics and Treatment Centres

(i) The following Health Services are provided by the Huntingdon County Council:—

Clinic	Patients seen	When held	Where held
Minor Ailments	Schoolchildren	3rd Friday in month. 10.30-11.30 a.m.	Health Clinic. Station Approach, St. Ives. Ditto.
Infant Welfare	Children (0-5 yrs.)	Every Friday. 2-4 p.m. 1st Monday in month. 2-4 p.m. 2nd Tuesday in month. 2-4 p.m. 1st Wednesday in month. 2-4 p.m.	Constitutional Hall, Fenstanton. Methodist Room, Somersham. Baptist Chapel, Warboys.
Dental	Pre-school and schoolchildren, Pre-natal and nursing mothers.	3rd Friday in month. 10 a.m.-12 noon. 2.30-3 p.m. Every Monday 9.30 a.m.-12 noon 1.30 - 4.30 p.m. Every Saturday 9.30 a.m.-12 noon (By appointment)	Health Clinic, Station Approach, St. Ives. Dental Clinic, Princes Street, Huntingdon.

(ii) The following health services are provided by the Regional Hospital Board:-

Clinic	Patients seen	When held	Where held
Chest	All ages	Every Thursday. 10 a.m.-12 noon.	County Hospital, Huntingdon.
Venereal Diseases	All cases	Mondays, 3-7 p.m. Wednesdays, 4-6.30 p.m.	Addenbrooke's Hospital, Cambridge.
	Males:	Mondays, 5.30-7 p.m. Wednesdays, 5.30-7 p.m.	Out-Patients Department, Memorial Hospital, Peterborough.
	Females:	Tuesdays, 10.30-12 noon Thursdays, 5.30-7 p.m.	
Orthopaedic	Pre-school and schoolchildren	2nd and 4th Tuesdays in month (Surgeons by appointment). 10 a.m.-12 noon.	Old Grammar School Huntingdon

(iii) The following service is provided under the Supplementary Ophthalmic Scheme of the National Health Service:

Clinic	Patients seen	When held	Where held
Ophthalmic	Pre-school and schoolchildren	1st and 3rd Fridays in month (by appointment except in emergency). 10 a.m.-12 noon. 2-4 p.m.	Old Grammar School, Huntingdon.

Medical, Surgical, Orthopaedic, Paediatric, Skin Obstetrical, Gynaecological and Dental Out-Patients' Clinics are held at Huntingdon County Hospital and Addenbrooke's Hospital, Cambridge, to which General Practitioners can refer their patients for specialist investigation.

(e) **Hospital Services.**

Fever. Cases of Infectious disease requiring hospital treatment are admitted to Isolation Hospitals at Cambridge, Peterborough and Ely.

General Hospital Services were provided by the County Hospital, Huntingdon, and Addenbrooke's Hospital, Cambridge.

Maternity Cases were admitted to Primrose Lane Maternity Hospital, Huntingdon and Mill Road Hospital, Cambridge.

CONTROL OF INFECTIOUS DISEASES

							Total Cases Notified
Scarlet Fever	...	...	...	...	...	...	17
Whooping Cough	...	...	...	...	...	...	17
Diphtheria	...	...	...	...	...	...	—
Measles	...	...	...	...	...	...	447
Acute Pneumonia	...	...	...	...	...	...	5
Puerperal Pyrexia	...	...	...	...	...	...	1
Puerperal Sepsis	...	...	...	...	...	...	1
Typhoid Fever	...	...	...	...	...	...	—
Erysipelas	...	...	...	...	...	...	—
Acute Poliomyelitis	...	...	...	...	...	...	—
Infective Hepatitis	...	...	...	...	...	...	5
Dysentery	...	...	...	...	...	...	2
							—
							495
							—

TUBERCULOSIS

Total number on Register at 31st December, 1957 43

Pulmonary: 30

Non-Pulmonary: 13

AGE PERIODS				New Cases—Diagnosed				New Cases—Transfers			
				Respiratory		Non-Res.		Respiratory		Non-Res.	
				M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F
0	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
1	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
5	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
10	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
15	..	..	..	I	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
20	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	I	I	..	..
25	..	..	..	2	..	..	..	I	..	..	..
35	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
45	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	I	..	..	..
55	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	I
65 and upwards	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Totals ..				3	—	—	—	3	I	—	I

No action was found to be necessary under the Public Health (Prevention of Tuberculosis) Regulations, 1952, in connection with persons suffering from pulmonary tuberculosis employed in the milk trade, or under Section 172 of the Public Health Act, 1936, which deals with the compulsory removal to hospital of persons suffering from tuberculosis.

REPORT OF PUBLIC HEALTH INSPECTOR SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES

1. (1) **Water.**—Water is supplied to the district by the Ramsey and Saint Ives Joint Water Board, the Chesterton and Saint Ives Joint Water Board, and by Huntingdon Rural District Council.

The Ramsey and Saint Ives Joint Board's scheme for a supplementary supply from the Cambridge Water Company was completed during the year, and the quantity of water available for distribution is now adequate for the needs of the 11 parishes supplied by the Board. With the continued increase in consumption however, distribution problems are becoming more evident. A booster plant was installed by the Council at Bluntisham to increase the pressure at Woodhurst, Oldhurst and Broughton and the Board was considering what further measures were necessary to increase the pressure in other parts of the district.

Agreement was reached with the Chesterton and Saint Ives Joint Board for an additional supply of up to 40,000 gallons per day for the Hemingfords' and Huntingdon Rural District Council were prepared to increase their bulk supply to the Hemingfords', Houghton and Wyton, from 39,000 gallons to 66,000 gallons per day, subject to agreement on price.

The proposed Re-grouping of Water Undertakings was the subject of several meetings with neighbouring Authorities. The Huntingdonshire County Council for example, suggested the formation of a Joint Board constituted from Local Authorities within the County with an augmented supply to be taken from the River Ouse at Offord Cluny. It was apparent that many divergent views were held by neighbouring authorities and by the existing Joint Boards. At the end of the year no final arrangement for Re-grouping had been determined, but negotiations were still proceeding.

The rainfall during the year as officially recorded at the Royal Air Force Station, Wyton, was 19.34 inches, approximately $2\frac{1}{2}$ inches below the average for the district. September was the wettest month, when 3.01 inches were recorded.

Routine samples from various points of the district indicated that the purity of the water was satisfactory. 49 Samples were taken during the year of which 2 were unsatisfactory.

Several extensions to the existing mains were completed during the year and the network of subsidiary mains is still creeping forward in the Fen Areas and to the more isolated houses scattered throughout the district.

1. (2) **Drainage and Sewerage**—The Somersham main drainage scheme, which is the first of the Council's comprehensive schemes for the district, was completed during the year and is in operation.

Two main and two subsidiary pumping stations erected in the village, pump the sewage to the disposal works.

The works are designed to deal with 60,000 gallons per day and consist of a Detritus and Screening Chamber, two upward flow sedimentation tanks having a capacity of 33,000 gallons, two circular Percolating Filters each 62 feet in diameter with a total capacity of 1332 cubic yards of gravel media, two horizontal flow Humus Tanks having a capacity of 15,000 gallons and eight Sludge Drying Beds with a total area of 600 square yards.

The effluent is discharged into the Cranbrook.

The sewers were constructed of re-inforced concrete pipes made from sulphate resisting cement.

Following a report from their Consulting Engineers, the Council decided to exclude that part of the Somersham Scheme dealing with house re-connections, from the Contractor's tender, and carry out the work by direct labour. This work was undertaken by the Public Health Department, and a temporary labour force of 20 men was engaged for this purpose. All those house drains taking foul water to the old sewer were reconstructed and connected to the new sewer. Surface water drains will continue to flow into the old sewer which discharges into the Cranbrook.

Following an informal meeting with one of the Ministry's Engineering Inspectors on the Houghton, Wyton and Hemingford Abbots Scheme which was deferred in 1955, the Council's Consulting Engineers were requested to revise the scheme to include Hemingford Grey, for submission to the Ministry as soon as possible. This revision was considered necessary because of the residential development both actual and proposed in Hemingford Grey.

Agreement was reached in principle with Ramsey Urban District Council for sewage from Bury to be introduced into Ramsey Sewers and treated at the Urban District Council's proposed Disposal Works as and when a main drainage scheme is undertaken at Bury.

2. Rivers and Streams.—The River Ouse which flows through the district is controlled by the Great Ouse River Board.

No exceptional cases of pollution were reported during the year and with the completion of main drainage schemes in townships higher up the river it is anticipated that there will be an improvement in the condition of the water in those reaches that are situated in the district.

An ever-increasing number of anglers line the banks of the river at week-ends, most of whom arrive by coach from the midlands; while an enjoyable and restful holiday on the river is appreciated by many more.

The conditions of the minor watercourses and ditches in the area, some of which are heavily contaminated with sewage present a different picture, and emphasise the necessity of main drainage schemes.

The Council arranged for the cleansing of several of these watercourses, but its policy on the maintenance of awarded watercourses remains unchanged.

The Council have explored many channels to find a satisfactory solution to this urgent problem.

In this connection a delegation from the Council met representatives of the Ministry of Housing and Local Government and the Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food,

together with representatives of the Rural District Councils Association, to discuss the matter.

The Council and the Association Representatives requested the Ministry to implement the principles of the Heneage Report on Land Drainage and asked for some clarification on the maintenance of awarded watercourses.

The Ministry of Housing and Local Government subsequently informed the Council that the Minister had no authority to give a general ruling to clarify the position resulting from Parish Awards, and at the most could only express an opinion on individual cases.

The Minister appreciated that the position was often obscure and Local Authorities had only limited powers to deal with land drainage problems; nevertheless the Council had specific powers under the Public Health Act, 1936, to secure the abatement of nuisances caused by the silting up or obstruction of watercourses.

3. (1) **Closet Accommodation.**— The number of pail lavatories converted to Water closets increased during the year. This was mainly a result of the completion of the main drainage scheme at Somersham.

The work necessary to convert the lavatories at the 58 pre-war council houses in the parish was carried out by direct labour and supervised by the Public Health Department, and the work continued during the early part of 1958.

In addition, the Council used its powers under the Public Health Act, 1936, to make Grants in respect of properties where the owners converted their existing pail lavatories. To the end of the year 11 applications were received involving 21 properties. The total Grants made amounted to £498 10 0 which represents an average of £23 15 0 per property.

3. (2) **Public Cleansing.**

(a) **Night-soil Collection.**

A weekly collection of night-soil is carried out over the whole of the district by means of two 750 gallon Yorkshire Karrier Tankers which are fitted with night-soil attachments. Approximately 2,000 pails were emptied each week.

Practically all the night-soil is injected into the sewers at Oldhurst as it was found that very little agricultural land was available over which it could be distributed.

The sewage works at Oldhurst was consequently overloaded and the quality of the effluent deteriorated.

By arrangement with Huntingdon Borough Council, night-soil is collected from Hartford and Huntingdon, approximately 145 pails being emptied each week.

By arrangement with Saint Ives Borough Council, night-soil is collected from approximately 90 houses in the Borough, this service being carried out as far as practicable after dark.

(b) Cesspool Emptying.

The same vehicles are used for cesspool emptying as are used for the night-soil service.

During the year 619 cesspools were emptied, this is more than double the number emptied in 1950, and reflects the number of post-war houses with septic tank drainage.

The majority of the cesspools are emptied from Thursday to Sunday.

The Council again reviewed the charges for cesspool emptying but decided to continue on the existing basis of 25s/- for each 750 gallon load and a sliding scale reducing the charge for additional loads.

The service is made available to neighbouring Authorities for de-sludging sewage tanks and gully emptying, and to private individuals in adjacent districts at a higher charge.

(c) Refuse Collection and Disposal.

The weekly kerbside collection of house refuse throughout the district continued during the year and a satisfactory service was maintained.

The Council considered the possibility of a house to house collection but came to the conclusion that the resulting increase in the cost of collection would not be warranted.

Two 12 cubic yard moving floor vehicles and one 15 cubic yard dual tip diesel driven vehicle are used for the collections.

This latter vehicle has proved to be most economical in use; fuel costs are reduced and the design of the body is such that maintenance costs are low, while the volume of refuse in each full load is substantially increased.

The refuse is tipped at two worked-out gravel pits situated at Somersham and Hemingford Grey.

Refuse on the tips is spread and levelled by bulldozing but only a limited quantity of earth is available for sealing.

Periodic baiting is undertaken to control rats and insecticides are sprayed to control crickets and flies.

In addition to the house refuse collections in the area contract work for more frequent collections of house and trade refuse was undertaken at one Royal Air Force Station situated in the district.

By arrangement with Saint Ives Borough Council, a weekly kerbside collection of house and trade refuse is carried out for the Borough.

Salvage.— No special collections of salvage are made but materials to the value of £67. were sold during the year. These consisted mostly of textiles and non-ferrous metals.

Two persons found removing materials from the Hemingford Grey Tip were convicted of larceny.

3. (3) Sanitary Inspection of the Area.

(a) Housing Inspections:—

Under Public Health and Housing Acts	308
Re-inspections	101
Number of Preliminary Notices served	59
Number of Preliminary Notices complied with	45
Number of Statutory Notices served	—
Number of Statutory Notices complied with	—

The majority of the inspections carried out were in connection with the Council's Slum Clearance Scheme and with applications for Improvement Grants.

There has been little change in the condition of the cottage property in the area, which inevitably means that each year several more dwellings become incapable of repair at reasonable cost.

(b) Inspections under the Factories Act, 1937:—

Premises	Number on Register	Number of Inspections	Number of written Notices	Number of Occupiers Prosecuted
1. Sections 1, 2, 3, 4, and 6	8	14	Nil	Nil
2. Section 7	44	60	Nil	Nil
	—	—	—	—
Total	52	74	Nil	Nil
	—	—	—	—

The following defects were found as a result of the inspections:—

Number of cases in which defects were:—

Defect	Found	Remedied	Referred	
			To H.M. Inspector	By H.M. Inspector
Want of cleanliness	0	0	0	0
Overcrowding ..	0	0	0	0
Temperature ..	0	0	0	0
Ventilation ..	0	0	0	0
Drainage of floors ..	0	0	0	0
Insufficient sanitary accommodation	1	1	0	0
Defective sanitary accommodation	0	1	0	0
Other offences ..	1	0	0	1
	—	—	—	—
Total ..	2	2	0	1
	—	—	—	—

Two amended Certificates as to the Means of Escape in case of Fire were issued during the year, and the necessary steps were taken to ensure the provision of an adequate and wholesale supply of drinking water at another factory.

No proceedings were taken against any of the occupiers of Factories in the district, and the premises were maintained in a satisfactory condition.

(c) **Inspections under Regulations, etc.:—**

Moveable dwellings	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	100
Dumps, tips	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	77
Scavenging	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	54
Salvage	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	4
Dairies	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	18
Offensive trades	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	5
Butcher's premises	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	157
Shops	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	16
Pumps, wells	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	8
Drains	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	179
Council houses	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	275
Housing sites	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	129
General Public Health	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	162
Schools	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1
Slaughter-houses	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	34
Meat from outside district	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	4
Petroleum stores	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	9
After infectious diseases	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1
Ice cream	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	26
Disinfestations	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	48
Food Regulations	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	193
Sewage Works	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	62
Improvement Grants	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	192
Main Drainage Schemes	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	351
Miscellaneous	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	78
Total									2,183

As a result of the inspections recorded above, 95 informal notices were served on owners and occupiers of the premises concerned requesting them to comply with the relevant Acts and Regulations.

The infringements found were of a minor character, and were rectified after a request to do so had been made by the Department.

It was not found necessary to issue any statutory notices.

3. (4) **Camping Sites.** —Four existing licences and one new licence for Camping Sites were renewed by the Council. The new licence was issued subject to the fulfillment of conditions appertaining to both Planning and Public Health requirements.

Following consultations with the County Fire Service, the Owners of these sites were requested to implement the general fire precautions recommended by the Fire Service.

Licences for the stationing of 27 caravans in various points of the district were granted by the Council.

Several itinerant van dwellers were stationed in the district during the harvest period, these are mostly employed by local Farmers on a piece-work basis.

3. (5) **Swimming Baths.** —There are no public baths in the area, but a number of people continue to bathe in the River Ouse which is fairly heavily contaminated.

Preliminary discussions were held with the Saint Ives Borough Council to investigate the possibility of joint action by the two Authorities to provide a public bath in the Borough.

3. (6) **Rodent Control.** —The Council do not employ a Rodent Operator and it is therefore impossible to carry out regular inspections and surveys under the provisions of the Prevention of Damage by Pests Act, 1949.

On the receipt of complaints regarding the presence of Rats, disinfestations are carried out by the Public Cleansing Foreman.

Following a report from a Veterinary Surgeon that a dog had died from spirachael jaundice in Wistow, a survey of the parish was undertaken and a block disinfestation of the centre of the village was carried out.

By arrangement with Ramsey Urban District Council their Rodent Operator assisted in this work.

HOUSING

1 Inspection of dwelling-houses during the year :-

- | | |
|--|-----|
| (1) (a) Total number of dwelling-houses inspected for housing defects (under Public Health or Housing Acts) | 307 |
| (b) Number of inspections made for the purpose | 361 |

(2)	(a)	Number of dwelling-houses (included under sub-head (1) above) which were inspected and recorded under the Housing Consolidated Regulations, 1925 and 1932	171
	(b)	Number of inspections made for the purpose	186
(3)		Number of dwelling-houses found to be in a state so dangerous or injurious to health as to be unfit for human habitation	72
(4)		Number of dwelling-houses (exclusive of those referred to under the preceding sub-head) found not to be in all respects reasonably fit for human habitation	49
2		Remedy of defects during the year without service of formal notices:-	
		Number of defective dwelling-houses rendered fit in consequence of informal action by the Local Authority or their officers	57
3		Action under statutory powers during the year:-	
(a)		Proceedings under Sections 16, 17 and 23 of the Housing Act, 1957:-	
	(1)	Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which demolition orders were made	23
	(2)	Number of dwelling-houses demolished in pursuance of demolition orders	6

Housing (General).

The following table shows the progress made in the erection of both Council and privately owned houses since 1946 :-

						Council houses completed	Private houses completed
1946	...	...	...	...	...	18	10
1947	...	...	...	...	...	47	29
1948	...	...	...	...	...	50	19
1949	...	...	...	...	...	47	15
1950	...	...	...	...	...	47	21
1951	...	...	...	...	...	25	8
1952	...	...	...	...	...	56	2
1953	...	...	...	...	...	50	23
1954	...	...	...	...	...	74	23
1955	...	...	...	...	...	63	17
1956	...	...	...	...	...	15	36
1957	...	...	...	...	...	25	43
						<hr/> 517	<hr/> 246

There has been a considerable increase in the number of private houses erected in the area in the past two years, i.e. 36 in 1956 and 43 in 1957, and there is every indication that this number will be maintained next year as there were 34 new dwellings under construction at the end of the year.

The Council's 5 year housing programme for the general needs of the district is almost completed.

The total number of Council Houses and Bungalows at the end of the year was 935 plus 1 temporary dwelling.

A further 21 dwellings were under construction at Somersham.

The Council operate a differential rent scheme, the details of which were carefully reviewed by the Council during the year, and a two weeks' rent 'holiday' was granted to tenants who had been in occupation for six months or more.

Some minor alterations were made to the scheme in the light of the experience gained in the first year of its operation.

A direct labour staff consisting of a foreman and 7 men carry out all the normal maintenance required on the Council's houses with the exception of external painting which is carried out by contract.

Practically all the estate roads have been brought up to the standard required by the County Council, and are now maintained by that Authority; the road verges and open spaces on the estates remain the responsibility of the Council and these continue to be maintained by the Council.

Slum Clearance.

The Council's Slum Clearance Programme submitted to the Ministry in October 1955 estimated that there were 296 houses in the district which would be dealt with as Individual Unfit Houses and a terrace of 30 houses as a Clearance Area.

An Order in respect of this Clearance Order was confirmed by the Ministry of Housing and Local Government after an informal Hearing, subject to a direction by the Ministry that a "well maintained" payment be made to an Owner in respect of one house.

Visits and inspections of individual unfit houses continued during the year and 94 houses were represented as unfit and dealt with under section 11.

The Council made Demolition Orders on 42 of these houses and accepted Undertakings from the owners of 52 houses.

In addition one house was rendered fit after informal action by the Department.

A number of outstanding demolition orders made and undertakings accepted in 1939 were re-considered by the Council and an opportunity was given to every owner to submit proposals in respect of these houses, and they have been incorporated into the total number dealt with during the year.

Of the original programme of 296 houses estimated to be unfit 183 have now been dealt with which leaves 113 houses to be considered in the next three years.

Improvement Grants.

The number of applications received remained steady during the year; i.e. 23 against 24 the previous year. Of these, one was refused by the applicant and one rejected by the Council.

Grants amounting to £6,151 were made, which gives an average of £256 per house.

Since the adoption of the improvement grant scheme by the Council, grants to the total value of £21,169 have been made to owners in respect of 108 houses; an average of £196 per house.

INSPECTION AND SUPERVISION OF FOOD

(a) Milk Supply.

The bulk of the milk in the district is supplied by two firms both of whom operate high temperature short time pasteurisation Plants. All the milk retailed in the area is designated.

Dealers and Supplementary Licences authorising the sale of milk under special designations were granted as follows:-

Tuberculin Tested (Pasteurised)	...	...	7
Tuberculin Tested	...	...	6
Pasteurised	...	...	7
Sterilised	...	...	6

The district has been specified by the Minister as one in which only designated milk can be sold.

(b) **Ice Cream.**

There were no licensed manufacturers in the district and all the ice cream sold consists of pre-packed brands manufactured and distributed by well-known firms.

There are 41 premises registered for the sale of Ice Cream.

During the year 25 samples of ice cream were taken and submitted to the Public Health Laboratory Service for examination; of these 20 were classified as Grade I, 4 as Grade II, and one as Grade III.

(c) **Meat and Other Foods.**

Number of licensed Slaughter Houses ... 4

Number of Butcher's Shops ... 9

Practically all the home killed meat sold in the area is slaughtered outside the district.

The licensed slaughterhouses are only used for the occasional slaughter of pigs and sheep.

During 1957, 18 sheep and 10 pigs were slaughtered, all of which were inspected. One pig's head and tongue was condemned on account of tuberculosis.

The quality of the meat sold continued at its previous high standard.

A variety of other foods were examined during the year, but the amount condemned was exceptionally small, only 2 tins of fish and 1 tinned ham being found unfit for human consumption; these were destroyed.

Food Hygiene Regulations.

Inspections under these Regulations have continued during the year with particular reference to licensed premises.

The Food premises in the district have been classified as follows:-

Baker's	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	6
Butcher's Shops	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	8
Café's and Canteens	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	9
Confectioners	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1
Fish Shops	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	5
General Stores	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	53
Greengrocers	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	2
Licensed Premises	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	38

The shops are generally small and are of the "family business" type, very few shop assistants being employed.

The occupiers have in the main continued to improve their premises and every endeavour is being made to ensure that the simple rules of cleanliness and sterilization are maintained.

